

LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
INCORPORATED IN KENTUCKY

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OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

This publication is a testimony to unselfish devotion to duty. It is gratefully dedicated to the thousands of LG&E employees who gave their very best efforts to restore gas and electric service lost as part of the devastation caused by the tornado of April 3, 1974.

But it also is dedicated with deep appreciation to the countless individuals who assisted in this effort, clearing the way for our crews to enter damaged areas, providing equipment, materials and manpower, safeguarding our workers and contributing to their effectiveness and well-being in so many other ways.

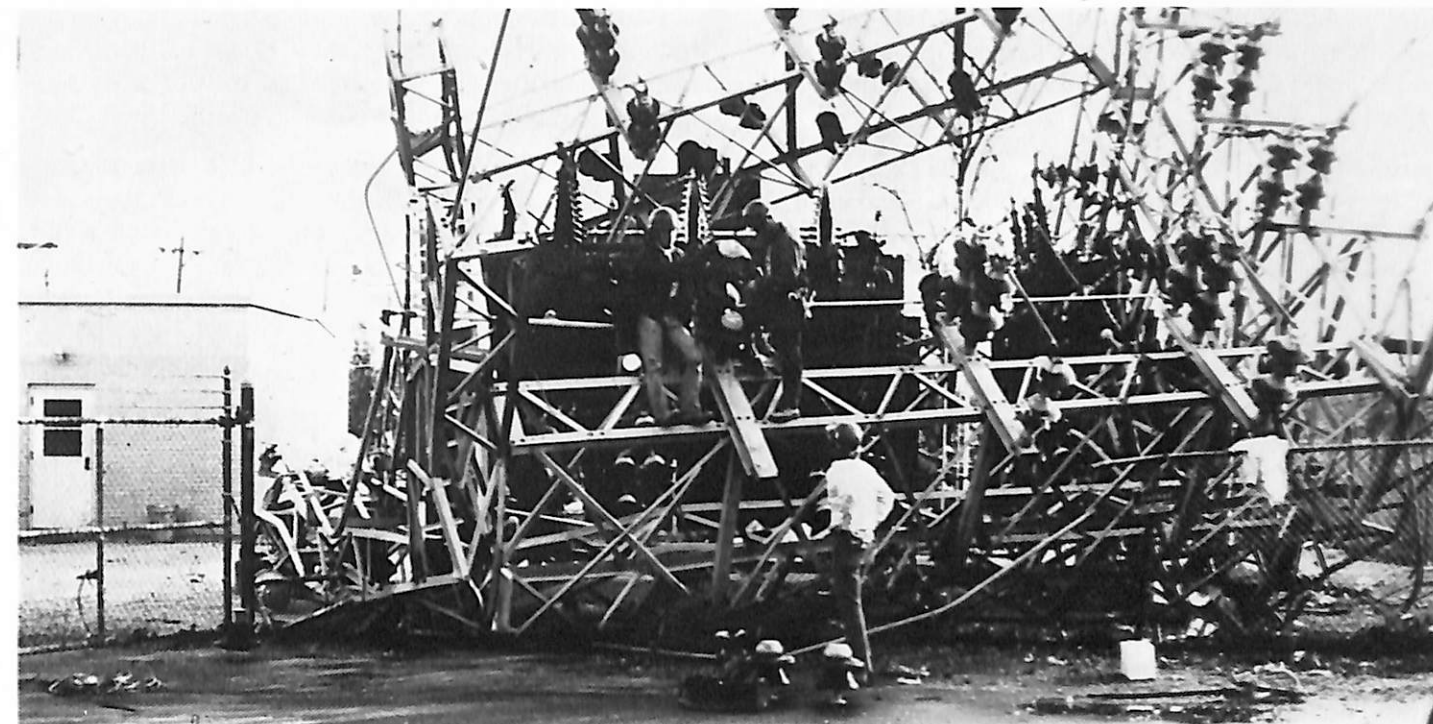
Most especially, it is dedicated to our customers, who endured hardships and responded with extraordinary patience and good humor as the monumental task of restoring service went on.

B. Hudson Milner



*The cover photograph depicts Bardstown Road
just south of Eastern Parkway.*

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Hillcrest Substation

"The electricity on our street was out, and I phoned to report it. At the time, I had no idea of the disaster nor how widespread the damage. I truly appreciate your man taking the few seconds to be so concerned . . ."

That customer's call reached the already mobilized Storm Board in L G & E's 7th and Ormsby Trouble Department shortly after 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, 1974.

At the time, comprehending the scope of the disaster and damage also was difficult for the hundreds of L G & E employees. But they were to surrender virtually every waking hour for the next two weeks to the overwhelming task of restoring electrical service.

An hour earlier, most of them knew that Louisville's electrical needs were more than adequately served. There were the company's own generating capacity with its complex network of circuits, energy back-up systems, and nine separate interconnections through which L G & E and five other utility companies balance peak demands against their combined generating capacities — an exceptional system of multiple fail-safes to augment the reliability of each system.

But by 5:39 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 1974, all of the interconnecting lines were in shreds, dangling from crumpled steel towers and broken wooden poles or soaking in mud at the bottom of the Ohio River. And 29 of the company's substations were inoperative at one time or another.

Still, the tornado which was one of the most devastating natural disasters in Louisville's history

had not been unduly harsh on the city's gas and electric supply, considering that five persons were killed, 190 were injured, 900 homes were demolished and total damage was estimated at \$37.5 million in Louisville and surrounding Jefferson County.

The company's generating stations — which suddenly became virtually Louisville's only source of power — were undamaged. In fact, the freakish pattern of the multiple storm system had severed Public Service Indiana's Gallagher generating station from the PSI system and left it attached only to the L G & E system. Barring delayed failure at any plant, Louisville had more potential generating power than it needed.

However, the means of moving power to L G & E's 274,000 electric customers was severely restricted. The tornado left 84,000 of these customers without power. Two-thirds of these customers had power restored in about three hours. But others went without power for days and several hundred without power for as much as two weeks — but not because the people of L G & E weren't bending every effort to restore service.

"I was home on the afternoon of April 3, 1974, when the tornado that ravaged much of Louisville hit the section of Preston Street where I live. Your men, along with some of the other departments such as Fire and Police, were on the scene working so quickly . . ."

When Bill Beard received the special weather alert through the company's teletype link with the Weather